

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3386

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 5TH August, 2022.

Use of Hindi in Various Courts

**+3386. SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI:
DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:
SHRIMATI RANJEETA KOLI:
SHRI SANJAY SETH:**

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- a) the details of steps taken by the Government to promote the use of Hindi in various courts;
- b) whether the Government has issued any instructions to use and keep the court proceedings/verdicts in Hindi along with English, if so, the details thereof;
- c) whether the judicial work has been started in Hindi in several courts; and
- d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (d): Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the District and Subordinate Judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court. Therefore, use of language in lower courts is a subject matter of States.

Article 348(1)(a) of the Constitution of India states that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court, shall be in English language. Clause (2) of the Article 348 of the Constitution states that notwithstanding anything in sub-clause (a) of clause (1), the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of Hindi

Language, or any other language used for any official purposes of the State, in proceedings in the High Court having its principal seat in that State.

The Cabinet Committee's decision dated 21.05.1965 has stipulated that consent of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India be obtained on any proposal relating to use of a language other than English in the High Court.

The use of Hindi in the proceedings of High Court of Rajasthan was authorized under clause (2) of Article 348 of the Constitution in 1950. After the Cabinet Committee's decision dated 21.05.1965 as mentioned above, the use of Hindi was authorized in the High Courts of Uttar Pradesh (1969), Madhya Pradesh (1971) and Bihar (1972) in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

Order VIII Rule 2 of Supreme Court Rules, 2013 prescribes that "No document in language other than English shall be used for the purpose of any proceedings before the Court". However, since February 2019, some judgments relating to certain specific subject categories are being translated into various Indian languages including Hindi. The translations can be accessed at https://main.sci.gov.in/vernacular_judgment.

The Prime Minister in his speech delivered at the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held on 30.04.2022 stressed upon the need of using regional languages in the proceedings of the Courts so that the common man understands the judicial process and feels connected with it.
